Low Impact Development Task Force
Meeting Summary of June 17, 2003
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Attendance:

Low Impact Development Task Force Members:
John Tippett, Friends of the Rappahannock
Ellen Gilinsky, DEQ
Martha Little, CBLAD (for Scott Crafton)
Joe Lerch, CBF
Ron Hamm, LID Coalition
Jack Frye, DCR
Rachel Morris, VFBF
Bill Springer, HBAV
Linda Cole, Department of the Navy
Barry Fitz-James, VACO (Stafford County)
Richard Street, VA SWCDs
Doug Beisch, WEG
Jeff Perry, VML (Henrico County)
Bruce Williams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Helene Merkel, Horne Engineering
Joe Battiata, VDOT (for Ken Smith)

Technical staff:
Shep Moon, DEQ
Kathy Frahm, DEQ
Sharon Baxter, DEQ
Burt Tuxford, DEQ
Larry Gavin, DCR
Jim Givens, VDOT

Interested Parties:
Carla Harris, VACO (Loudoun County)
Jeffery Watts, VFA
Kate Quinlan, VML
Mark Flynn, VML
Ellen Scarff, HBAV
Brian Henshaw, NSOR
Cindy Taylor, Suffolk
Russ Baxter, Secretary of Natural Resources

Summary of the Meeting:

Kathy Frahm welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Low Impact Development Task Force (LID-TF). The members and others in attendance introduced themselves and stated their interest in LID. Ron Hamm discussed the purpose of the HB 1953 (2003 GA). He stated that the purpose was to get localities together on how they would view and approve LID projects as a compliance tool in their programs. He said that he felt that it was important for the state to endorse LID principles and practices and to establish some consistency across the state in how localities evaluate LID for approval.

HB 1953 requires the LID-TF to 1) develop a LID certification Process; 2) develop guidance to promote effective LID; 3) recommend changes to existing statutes and regulations to facilitate use of LID; and 4) develop a model ordinance for local use. The LID-TF is required to submit a preliminary report to the Director of DEQ by 10/1/03 and a final report by 10/1/04.

John Tippett, Executive Director of the Friends of the Rappahannock, made a presentation on his organization's LID tutorial and toolkit CD. This CDRom includes examples of local ordinances from Warsaw and Stafford County. He told the group that the goal of LID was to get hydrology back to pre-development conditions because current Stormwater Management (SWM) controls actually increase the volume of water being discharged over a longer period of time at an increased frequency. He emphasized two key concepts: LID allows flows to be diffuse and unconcentrated; and 2) LID distributes source control by using smaller scale systems that are widely distributed over the site. He continued that LID has the potential for reducing costs but steps must be taken up front to realize these reductions. He said that an important consideration is that LID techniques function best when brought online after a site is stabilized because fine sediments can clog systems. He stated that more research needs to be done on pollutant loading efficiencies of various techniques and some efforts were underway by his group and DCR.

A discussion ensued regarding who is should be responsible for inspections and maintenance of LID projects. Jeff Perry indicated that standing water can be a problem for localities due to concerns about West Nile

virus. He felt that there is a need to educate people on how LID doesn't contribute to this problem.

Larry Gavin, of DCR, expressed his experience that LID methods actually require less maintenance than for conventional approaches. He said that except for pruning of vegetation, LID methods are generally self-maintaining.

Mr. Tippett continued by summarizing the benefits and drawbacks of LID techniques. He concluded by outlining five issues for how to make LID work: 1) development of a common definition, 2) standardize review guidelines, 3) remove roadblocks in local codes, 4) technical training in the techniques, and 5) the creation of incentives and regulations for LID use.

Shep Moon moved on to the next agenda item. He discussed several definitions for LID and recommended that the LID-TF adopt the statutory definition with some minor additions. The LID-TF supported the following language:

> "Low Impact Development (LID) is a site-specific system of design and development techniques that can serve as an effective, low-cost alternative to existing stormwater and water quality control methods and that will reduce the creation of storm runoff and pollution and potentially reduce the need to treat or mitigate water pollution. Low-impact development programs control runoff discharge, volume, frequency and quality in order to mimic predevelopment runoff conditions through a variety of small-scale site design techniques."

Bruce Williams with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers followed with a presentation on the development of a LID memorandum of understanding.

Kathy Frahm discussed the contents of a draft report outline and topics to be covered in future meetings of the LID-TF. The outline and meeting plan were adopted as modified.

Additional discussion followed, including a concern raised by Jeff Perry regarding his concern that the work of the LID-TF not significantly impact existing local programs.

The next meeting of the LID-TF was scheduled for July 24th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DEQ Piedmont Regional Office in Innsbrook. A request was made for Larry Coffman to speak at a future meeting.